

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08442.0002.02000

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Joseph C. CAUTHEN III )  
Application No.: 10/075,615 ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
File: February 15, 2002 )  
For: SPINAL DISC ANNULUS )  
RECONSTRUCTION METHOD )  
AND SPINAL DISC ANNULUS )  
STENT ) Examiner: Isabella, David J  
Confirmation No.: 2841 )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Further, under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:

  
Eric P. Raciti  
Reg. No. 41,475

Dated: June 12, 2007

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
Sheet	1	of	1	<i>Application Number</i>	10/075,615
				<i>Filing Date</i>	February 15, 2002
				<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Joseph C. Cauthen III
				<i>Art Unit</i>	3738
				<i>Confirmation No.</i>	2841
				<i>Examiner Name</i>	Isabella, David J
				<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	08442.0002-02000

**U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS**

Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US 2004/0092969	05-13-2004	Kumar	

**Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.**

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		International Search Report for PCT/US06/16292 (PCT counterpart of related application) dated April 28, 2006, Blaine R. Copenheaver	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

440040v3